

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 874
By Johnson R

A RESOLUTION to commend Billy R. Ridenour for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Mayor of Sweetwater.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Billy Ridenour is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for 18 years as Mayor of the City of Sweetwater and is now choosing to take a much deserved retirement from that office; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Mayor, Billy Ridenour has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, born the youngest of seven brothers, Mr. Ridenour attended Tennessee Wesleyan College and Cumberland Law School; and

WHEREAS, a former city attorney and administrative law judge, Billy Ridenour is licensed to practice law at all state and federal court levels, including the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, elected to his first term in 1981, Mayor Ridenour leaves behind an impressive legacy of accomplishment for the City of Sweetwater, from attracting new industry to improvements for Highway 322; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ridenour provided steady leadership during times of emergency, when flooding occurred in Sweetwater, and especially in 1996 when a train derailment created a toxic chemical spill; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Billy R. Ridenour is greatly admired and respected for his patriotic spirit that ensured Sweetwater would annually celebrate the Fourth of July and honor our military veterans on Veterans Day with parades through the city on both days; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ridenour's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, involved in numerous clubs and organizations, Billy Ridenour is a Past Master and Past Secretary of Sweetwater Masonic Lodge #292, a 32nd Degree Mason, a Shriner, former member of the Elks Lodge and a Past Grand Noble of the Oddfellows Lodge #280; and

WHEREAS, Billy Ridenour is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Billy Ridenour is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his beloved wife of 55 years, Jaunita, and their four children, Charles and his wife Kathy, Henry, Carla Ridenour Isbill and her husband, Danny, and Peggy Ridenour Shaw and her husband, Norman, and eight treasured grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ridenour is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Billy R. Ridenour for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Mayor of Sweetwater and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.